



Drive the Enemy

The ridge ahead was craggy and rough, and covered with flame and smoke. Campbell's Virginia regiment had drawn a tough and bloody assignment: to lead the first strike against the Tories. They were the first to close with the enemy, the first to hear the thunder of the drums, and the first to face the terror of the bayonets coming downhill. Some patriots stood their ground and were run through. Most broke and ran.

The loyalists stopped their charge at the foot of this hill. William Campbell stood half-way between his foe and his own men, now on the run. As he saw his neighbors make tracks for the next ridge, he shouted, “*Halt! Return, my brave fellows, and you will drive the enemy immediately!*” One by one, the Virginians slowed, turned about, and rallied to attack again.

Colonel Campbell's militia—Holston River Valley, southwest Virginia

Personal leadership proved crucial here. Colonel Campbell made time to visit every corps while marching to Kings Mountain. Face to face, he had urged each man to do his duty. And his own Virginians suffered the most casualties of any patriot corps.

These men marched the most miles to get into this fight. Although their homes in the Virginia mountains were far removed from the great plantations of the Tidewater, this regiment did include African-Americans—three free men of color and the colonel's servant, John Broddy.



Boy Company

This prominent battery in Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia often went by its nickname, "The Boy Company." Although the average battery member was 25 years old, the company had several lads between the ages of 14 and 19.

Under its dynamic leader, Captain William Parker, the battery forged a strong record on many of the Civil War's greatest battlefields. Some of the men who spent the final months of the war here had survived unimaginable carnage at Second Manassas (Bull Run), Sharpsburg (Antietam), and Gettysburg.



Private David A. Brown helped give Parker's company its nickname. He enlisted in the spring of 1862, just prior to his 16th birthday, and served throughout the war. He was wounded twice and captured twice. Brown died in 1918 and is buried in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery.

Confederate dead, believed to be from Parker's Battery, in front of the Dunker Church at Antietam, September 1862.





Freedom Fighters



By November 1864, several thousand African American soldiers, designated as United States Colored Troops or USCT, held Fort Harrison and the nearby earthworks. Many of these men had survived the bloody combat at New Market Heights, Fort Gilmer, and the Confederate counterattack against Fort Harrison where they defended the earthworks in front of you. These same soldiers remained here until the following April and were among the first Union troops to enter the Confederate capital.

Veteran soldiers of Company E, 4th Regiment USCT. Records indicate roughly half the regiment was made up of free blacks, the other half slaves. The 4th served in the trenches near Fort Harrison from October to December 1864.



Officers and enlisted men of the 4th Regiment USCT.

Sgt. Maj. Christian Fleetwood was one of fourteen USCT to receive the Medal of Honor for valor at New Market Heights. He's shown here wearing both his Medal of Honor and Butler Medal.



Union General Benjamin Butler purchased and presented this medal to approximately 200 USCT that fought in the battles before Richmond.



Major Ferguson Falls

The chaos of battle roared along this ridge top. Piercing the din of gunfire and wounded men's groans, Ferguson's silver whistle shrilled, rallying his Tories. Two horses were shot out from under him; Ferguson seemed to be everywhere at once.

While he was charging and slashing at the advancing Whigs, eight or nine rifle balls struck the major at the same time. His unusual "checkered duster" had made him an easy target. Ferguson fell from the saddle, his boot caught in the stirrup.

Fierce fighting continued as Captain Abraham DePeyster assumed command, but not for long. Minutes later, the King's men were laying down their arms as white flags fluttered here and there amid the swirling gunsmoke.

Four stunned loyalists untangled the major's boot from the stirrup, and propped him against a tree out of the line of fire. There men of both sides gathered to watch a legend die.



Patrick Ferguson, age 36, served his King with professional distinction as a soldier for 20 years in Europe, the West Indies, and North America. Renowned as the best marksman in the British army, he was a dynamic militia recruiter and trainer in the Carolinas. His defeat here signified the end of any British hopes to win the war using Americans loyal to the Crown.

The son of Scottish gentry, Major Ferguson was the only Briton to fight at Kings Mountain.



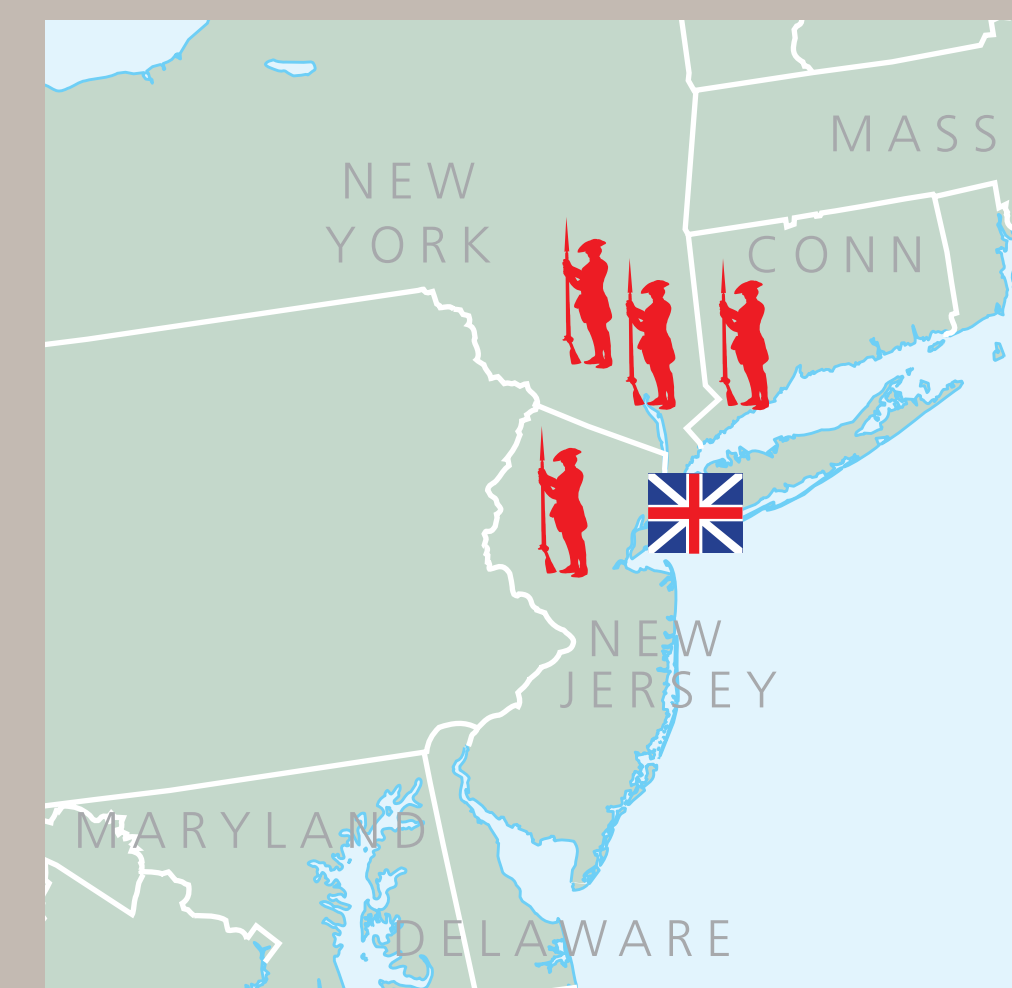
Americans in Redcoats

*These things are ominous—
these are the damned yelling boys!*

Abraham DePeyster, New York loyalist officer

British war drums bellowed the alarm as 120 battle-hardened veterans in red took their places in line here. They were the first to face the Whig woodsmen moving up through the trees below. Mounting bayonets as they had in countless drills before, they charged the riflemen.

British hopes to end the 6-year-long rebellion rested on Americans such as these. Leaders in London thought that a backbone of provincial soldiers could set the example, training Tory militia to march and fight properly. Together the Americans in redcoats and local loyalists might well reestablish Crown control in the South.



Ferguson's provincial regiments

Kings American Regiment
Captain DePeyster—New York

Loyal American Regiment
Major Main—New York

New Jersey Volunteers
Captain Ryerson

Prince of Wales American Regiment
Sergeant Townsend—Connecticut and New York